

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 00077 112359Z

67

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IO FOR BLAKE

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, UN

SUBJ: SYG'S COMMENTS ON ENERGY CRISIS AT JANUARY 10

PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXCERPTS:

Q - "TO BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS, I WONDER FIRST WHETHER YOU THINK THE UNITED NATIONS CAN SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. WE KNOW THAT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS ARE TIED UP IN THIS QUESTION. DO YOU THINK THE UNITED NATIONS COULD DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECOSOC? SECONDLY, DO YOU THINK THIS CRISIS AND ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES COULD CURTAIL FURTHER THE EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS?..."

SECGEN - "THE FIRST QUESTION, CONCERNING THE ENERGY CRISIS, IS, OF COURSE, A VERY PERTINENT QUESTION, AND I WISH TO SAY THAT THE PROBLEM DIRECTLY AFFECTS EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

"WHAT I MEAN IS THAT IT CONCERNS NOT ONLY THE MAJOR CONSUMER COUNTRIES BUT EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. IN MY OPINION,
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 00077 112359Z

IT SHOULD THEREFORE BE APPROACHED BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES AND GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. ENERGY IS -- AND I AM SURE YOU AGREE WITH ME -- AMONG THE MOST CHALLENGING ISSUES FACING THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THE NEW

ERA OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, I MENTIONED IN MY INTRODUCTORY REMARKS. WHAT IS NEEDED, IN MY OPINION, IS AN ENLIGHTENED GLOBAL APPROACH DESIGNED TO RECONCILE THE CHANGING AND OFTEN CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF COUNTRIES; AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD VIEW ENERGY REQUIREMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ALL THE OTHER URGENT PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD; AN APPROACH, FINALLY, WHICH MUST RE-EXAMINE PREVIOUS CONCEPTS AND ASSUMPTIONS GOVERNING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LIFE.

"AS FAR AS YOUR SECOND QUESTION IS CONCERNED -- THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND POOR AND THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE QUESTION OF ENERGY AND THIS PROBLEM -- THIS WILL OF COURSE HAVE AN ENORMOUS INFLUENCE ON THE FUTURE EFFORTS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO CLOSE THE GAP. AND, AS I SAID IN MY ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION, ALL THESE PROBLEMS ARE INTERCONNECTED AND WE CANNOT VIEW THEM FROM ONE ASPECT. WE HAVE TO VIEW THEM FROM ALL ASPECTS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO FIND A GLOBAL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM...."

Q - "YOU HAVE SUGGESTED A UNITED GLOBAL APPROACH VIS-A-VIS THE ENERGY CRISIS. DO YOU THINK THE FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON ENERGY IS SUCH A GLOBAL APPROACH, OR DO YOU FORESEE ANOTHER, WIDER, GLOBAL APPROACH WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS ON THIS PROBLEM?"

SECGEN - "I TAKE IT YOU MEAN THE PROPOSAL THAT WAS MADE YESTERDAY -- THE INVITATIONS SENT OUT BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. WELL, THAT IS ONE EFFORT. BUT I THINK WE CANNOT EXPECT THAT ONE EFFORT ALONE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IN OTHER WORDS, I THINK IT IS ONE VERY IMPORTANT APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO INFORMED THE OPEC COUNTRIES OF HIS INITIATIVE, AND THE IDEA IS THAT THAT MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED UP BY A COMBINED MEETING WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

"IN THIS CONNEXION, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT YESTERDAY I
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 00077 112359Z

WAS INFORMED OFFICIALLY BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE INVITED GOVERNMENTS WERE INFORMED OF THIS NEW PROPOSAL. BUT I THINK THIS IS JUST A BEGINNING, AND OTHER EFFORTS WILL CERTAINLY BE NEEDED. WHETHER ECOSOC AND THE UNITED NATIONS WILL DEAL WITH THE MATTER I CANNOT TELL YOU. I HAD A DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC, BUT IT IS OF COURSE UP TO THAT ORGAN TO DECIDE ON HOW TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM. APPARENTLY, WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE STAGE AT WHICH THE COUNCIL IS READY TO DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT".....

Q - "MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, YOU MENTIONED A MINUTE AGO THAT YOU HAVE HAD STUDIES MADE AND DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR COLLA-

BORATORS ON THE ENERGY CRISIS. YOU ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INFORMED YOU OF ITS OWN INITIATIVE. YOU ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS CAN BE INVOLVED ONLY AS FAR AS THE MEMBER STATES WISH IT TO BE INVOLVED. I SHOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU, SIR, FIRST, HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER STATES FROM THE CONSUMING, PRODUCING AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU YET ON THIS PROBLEM, AND, SECOND, DO YOU YOURSELF, AS A RESULT OF THE STUDIES NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN, HAVE ANYTHING IN MIND TO PROD THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE MEMBER STATES INTERESTED ENOUGH TO WANT TO USE THE MACHINERY OF THE UNITED NATIONS?"

SECGEN - "AS FAR AS YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS CONCERNED, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THAT SUBJECT. OF COURSE, THE MATTER HAS BEEN RAISED IN CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, BUT NO FORMAL APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE TO ME IN THIS REGARD. I HAVE, AS I SAID BEFORE, DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC FOR THIS YEAR, THE FINNISH AMBASSADOR. WE HAD AN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITIES ECOSOC HAS IN THIS REGARD. AS FAR AS I KNOW, NO CONCRETE INITIATIVE IS INTENDED BY ECOSOC FOR THE TIME BEING. IN FACT, THAT COULD EFFECTIVELY ONLY BE TAKEN AT THE SESSION OF ECOSOC, AT THE BEGINNING OF JULY BUT, I REPEAT, NO FORMAL APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE BY THE MEMBER STATES TO ME.

"AS FAR AS MY OWN INITIATIVES ARE CONCERNED, I HAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 00077 112359Z

ESTABLISHED AN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER AND TO ADVISE ME IN THIS REGARD, AND ON THE BASIS OF THIS ADVICE I SHALL THEN HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF STEPS CAN BE TAKEN. BUT I WISH TO ADD PARTICULARLY THAT THIS IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROBLEM AND, AS I SAID IN MY INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF ALL SIDES, IS REQUIRED. WE IN THE UNITED NATIONS CANNOT DEAL WITH ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM, NAMELY, THE CONSUMER ASPECT; WE HAVE TO DEAL ALSO WITH THE OTHER ASPECTS -- THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BECAUSE THEY ARE CONFRONTED WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM. SO WHAT I WANT TO STRESS IS THAT THE PURPOSE OF ANY FUTURE UNITED NATIONS ACTION CAN ONLY BE TO FIND A GLOBAL SOLUTION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS AND INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES."

Q - "MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY CONSIDERATION TO INVOKING ARTICLE 99 OF THE CHARTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS, OR WOULD YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE SITUATION BECAME A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY?"

SECGEN - "ARTICLE 99 SPEAKS OF THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. I DO NOT THINK THAT WE HAVE REACHED THAT POINT. I RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH CAN HAVE ENORMOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WORLD IN GENERAL, BUT I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE REACHED THE POINT NOW WHERE THIS CRISIS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THEREFORE, I DO NOT SEE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR INVOKING ARTICLE 99".....

Q - "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ENERGY WHEN WE REALLY MEAN PETROLEUM. SO I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEMPT TO RELATE THIS TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE IT REALLY BELONGS. MY QUESTION IS THIS: IN YOUR OPINION, TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD THE SPEEDING UP OF AGREEMENTS IN GENEVA, IN WHATEVER STAGE, EASE THE ENERGY CRISIS, WHICH IS A EUPHEMISM FOR WHAT IS REALLY A PETROLEUM ACTION?"

SECGEN - "I AM CONVINCED THAT PROGRESS IN THE POLITICAL FIELD WILL EASE THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION IN THE ENERGY CRISIS.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 USUN N 00077 112359Z

I THINK THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS. IF WE ARE ABLE TO SOLVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEM -- AND THE CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS HAS A HEAVY POLITICAL BACKGROUND -- I THINK WE WOULD THEN HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF EASING THE CRISIS."
BENNETT

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